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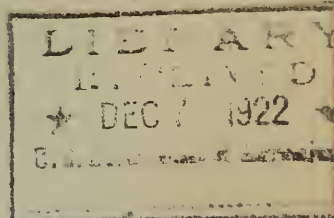
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Report F. S. 20

August 17, 1922.

MEAT CONSUMPTION IN GERMANY DECREASES

Foreign Meat Beyond Purchasing Power of Inhabitants.



One of the most tangible evidences of the lowering of the standard of living in Germany is to be seen in the diminished consumption of meat by the German population, according to a report received from the American Consul at Berlin. Though there is still a very large potential demand for meat in Germany, the depreciation of German currency makes it impossible for the large majority of the inhabitants to pay the prices of imported meat.

The need of replenishing all kinds of live stock, as a result of the loss caused by the war and the compulsory deliveries to the Entente under the Peace Treaty, has necessarily led to a decrease in the number of animals slaughtered. The consumption of meat in rural communities is more nearly normal than in the cities. It is variously estimated that the consumption of meat by the city inhabitants in 1921 was between fifty and sixty percent of the prewar quantity.

The decline in the consumption of meat in Germany during 1921 is shown in the following table:

KIND	1913	1921
	Metric tons*	Metric tons*
Beeves....	462,608.5	329,604.8
Calves....	76,061.1	58,421.6
Hogs.....	1,125,084.6	613,097.5
Sheep....	29,387.2	28,427.3
TOTAL	1,693,141.4	1,029,551.2

*One Metric Ton = 2204.6 Lbs.

In the figures given the loss of territory suffered since 1913 has been taken into consideration as well as the greatly increased number of private slaughtering in farming communities.

The average per capita consumption of meat of domestic origin in Prussia during 1913 was 101.53 lbs. as compared with 62.74 lbs. in 1921. To these amounts should be added 7.06 lbs. of imported meat for 1913 and 10.81 lbs. for 1921, these amounts being the excess imports per capita over exports.

Assuming that the same conditions as in Prussia held good for all Germany, the average per capita consumption of both imported and domestic meat, amounted to 108.59 lbs. in 1913 and 73.65 lbs. in 1921. The consumption in 1921 was accordingly but 67.8% of the last prewar year.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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